

ELINT
X-CLINT
52-1338
APR 14 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Inspector General's Survey Report on the
Agency's ELINT Program

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. Pursuant to your request dated 31 March 1956 the following comments are offered on the Inspector General's Survey Report on the Agency's ELINT Program:
 - a. The specific recommendations have been considered by appropriate Support elements and there is general agreement that these recommendations are valid and should be implemented.
 - b. With respect to recommendation 4 the budget for FY 1957 does provide for the allocation, allotment, and administration of Agency funds for ELINT activities as a normal Agency function.
 - c. With respect to recommendation 5 it is believed that the date for submission of a revised program should be no sooner than 1 June to permit the thorough review warranted by the situation.

Attachments:

- 1-Memo to DD/S fr
D/Commo, dtd 12 Apr
same subject
- 2-Memo to DD/S fr
C/Budget, dtd 9 Apr
same subject

15/
L. K. WHITE
Deputy Director
(Support)

SA-DD/S:CEB:dlc (13 Apr 56)

Distribution:

- 1-DD/S chrono
- 1-DD/S subject
- 1-Inspector General
- 1-D/Communications
- 1- [redacted]

Orig. & 1 - adse w/attach.

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12 APR 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director(Support)

SUBJECT: Inspector General's Survey Report on the
Agency's ELINT Program

1. I have reviewed the Inspector General's Survey of the Agency ELINT Program and generally concur with its specific recommendations. It is believed that the date for submission of a revised Program should be no sooner than 1 June to permit the thorough review warranted by the situation.

2. The implementation of the Agency ELINT Program effectively dates from November 1955 when the supplemental budget funds first became available. In the ensuing 5 and 1/2 months considerable progress has been made despite the factors noted by the Survey. Increased effectiveness requires the presence of competent, experienced personnel in addition to delineations of function and responsibility. The personnel recruiting in this regard has been disappointing; the lack of distinction between staff and command has been awkward. These can and will be corrected but some time will be required.

3. Rule by committee is rarely effective. This case is no exception. I specifically endorse the recommendation that normal Agency project and command procedures be observed with respect to ELINT activities. Some adjustment of specific responsibilities may prove desirable after a sufficient period of operation to prove their need. The preservation of the security of clandestine operations should receive some attention in the revision of the ELINT Program.

4. There is ample evidence of the sincerity of purpose of the Agency personnel involved in ELINT matters. With men of good will dedicated to make it work, there is no reason to believe that ELINT cannot become an effective and completely normal Agency function.

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[Redacted Signature]

Director of Communications

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4 April 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Colonel White

SUBJECT : IG Report on ELINT Program

1. Very briefly this report says little progress has been achieved in creating a planned ELINT Program, no clear and authoritative statement of ELINT policy has been issued, the intra-Agency responsibilities defined originally have never been approved or published, and budgetary procedures initially agreed upon have not been adhered to.

2. All of this has resulted in confusion, misunderstanding, and disagreements between Agency elements concerned.

3. The report sort of takes the ELINT Staff Officer to task for making impractical proposals, some of which are in conflict with the basic command prerogatives of the operating components, another which would shift certain ELINT research and development activities to TSS. The report highlights the problems Commo has had to contend with, e.g., crash actions requiring hastily improved equipment, heavy demands of other high priority projects such as AQUATONE.

4. The report recommends that:

a. The statement on intra-Agency ELINT responsibilities be revised to conform to present organization.

b. ELINT technical support remain the responsibility of Commo.

c. The allocation and expenditure of Agency funds for ELINT be considered as a part of normal Agency and office budgetary planning cycles with the proviso that approval of each project be coordinated with the ELINT Staff Officer.

d. The Original Agency ELINT Program be reviewed and revised to conform to current capabilities.

General Cabell has asked for your comments by 15 April.

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P.S. Commo did not get copy of this report. If you wish I will have handcarried